

COUNTRY Germany (GDR) TOPIC Zerbst Fuel Depot and Airfield REPORT NO. 140

TOPIC Zerbst Fuel Depot and Airfield

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 21 July to 7 August 1951

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A DATE PREPARED 10 September 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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25X1X

SOURCE

25X1X

1. On 21 July 1951, a fuel depot was observed at Zerbst airfield just south of the northern field boundary and west of the former Zerbst-Deetz road. The depot, about 150 x 220 meters, was surrounded by poles fitted with spotlights. A spur track from Lindau to the airfield runs along the west boundary of the depot. A line led to the depot where several semi-underground containers and temporary buildings were observed. The depot was probably a supply installation of the airfield. \*
2. A biplane landed at the field at 6:15 p.m. on 23 July. There was no flying at the field on the other days of observation up to 29 July. Three biplanes were parked at the field. Four searchlights were continually in operation during the night of 29 July. No vehicular traffic was observed between 23 and 29 July.
3. According to an acquaintance of source, the runway was being enlarged to a total length of about 2,900 meters and, upon its completion, would reach about 200 meters from the communication road leading to the village of Straguth. The old runway, which had thickness of 30 to 50 cm, was provided with an additional concrete cover of 15 cm. The runway was 60 meters wide. The target date for the completion of the runway was said to be 15 August 1951. The jet fighter unit, previously stationed at the field, is now at Koethen airfield and, upon completion of construction, would return to Zerbst. \*\* About 50 air force soldiers were stationed at the field.

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4. On 7 August, about 30 workers and 1 biplane were seen. Trucks left the field. A fuel dump seemed to be located near the spur track which lead from Deetz into the wooded area east of Mournuehle and north of the target ranges of Zerbst airfield. \*\*\* The track had the appearance of currently being used.

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25X1A \* Comment. The storage capacity of this fuel depot is unknown.

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Date:	24 AUG 1978

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\*\* Comment. The transfer to Koethen of the two fighter regiments is also confirmed by reported construction work. The construction work is limited to the reinforcement and repair of the runway surface, the building of a taxiway, grading of the landing field and a short extension of the runway. The target date for the completion of the work has not been reported by other sources.

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\*\*\* Comment. This fuel dump is reported for the first time.

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